USA Today 3-13-95

Cochran gets a boost from Bailey

LOS ANGELES — Back in La-La land. . . . **F. Lee Bailey** says there is "no doubt" in his mind that his client **O.J. Simpson** is innocent. He believes the true story will come out and that the murderer or murderers will be apprehended. The defense team has its own detectives working on the case.

Other interesting Bailey quotes: "**Johnnie Cochran** is probably the best trial lawyer now working in this country. . . . I have never seen collectively worse work than that being done generally by the media in this matter. With some exceptions, the reporting has been outlandish and the analysis almost funny. I have seen some people offer criticisms that make no sense at all.

LARRY KING'S PEOPLE

News & Views

"On a scale of 10, I would rate Judge **Lance Ito** an 8. He is dispassionate, but at the same time very involved. He has stayed fully abreast and he is trying at all times to be fair. For instance, I believe his decision to allow the testimony about the dream (**Ron Shipp** saying O.J. told him he had dreamed of killing Nicole), even though it may have hurt us, to be a correct decision.

"He spends much too much time with bench conferences. Just because either side asks for one doesn't mean you have to grant it. For instance, in federal cases, judges rarely allow bench conferences."

On to other things. . . . A few weeks ago, I told you about a horse named Larry The Legend, who was born of non-famous parentage in Illinois. I pointed out that he could be a very, very good 3-year-old. He has now won two stakes races in a row, has become a fan favorite in California and looks definitely headed for the Kentucky Derby. Thank me later.

I ran into **James Woods** on Rodeo Drive. He's excited about the script for **Oliver Stone's** *Nixon*. Woods will play H.R. Haldeman; **Anthony Hopkins** will play President Nixon. They'll be working in L.A. and Washington, and Woods says it's one of the best scripts he's ever read. He's been studying Haldeman on tape, reading his book and talking to intimates. He adds that Hopkins will be a perfect Nixon. "His accent will sound like Nixon's; he's so great an actor you'll never know he isn't American."

I saw a sneak of **Gary David Goldberg's** new film *Bye Bye, Love*, and it's going to be a smash. **Paul Reiser, Randy Quaid** and **Matthew Modine** are perfectly cast in this tender and side-splitting movie about divorce. McDonald's, featured in much of the film, will heavily promote it in all restaurants. The **Randy Quaid-Janeane Garafolo** blind date from hell in an Italian restaurant could be one of the funniest in film history.

I've tried to listen to replacement baseball on the radio, but can't stand it. I don't know anyone in his right mind who would attend any of these games. . . . **Barry Diller,** who left QVC, tells me he's "shopping around." Don't be surprised if he gets into in the bidding with **Ted Turner** to acquire CBS. Diller once came very close to acquiring the network and still thinks he can pull it off. He also just built a home on Harbour Island in the Bahamas.

Larry King Live *is seen nightly on CNN and simulcast on the Westwood One network.*